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Def. Doc. 589

Translated by Defense Language
Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE F.A.R. EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

S'GRN Deposition (Translation)

Deponent: YAMAMOTO, Kumaichi

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet
and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country
I hereby depose as follows:

1. I was appointed the Vice-Minister of the Greater
East Asiatic Affairs Ministry in November, 1942, when the
Ministry was first established. I remained in the same
office until I was sent to Thailand in August, 1944, as
an Ambassador. Accordingly, I am well acquainted with
the happenings of the Greater East Asia Conference in
November, 1943. I took general charge of the business of
this Conference.

2. Since the outbreak of the Greater East Asiatic
War in 1941, there had been certain happenings in various
localities where our officials were stationed, which did
not exactly coincide with the views of the government at
home. In the summer of 1942, therefore, the government
in Tokyo established the policy that a more liberal at-
mosphere should be created in various localities. In 1943
I accompanied Premier TOJO in his trip through Southern
Regions. During this trip also I proposed to the Premier
that the native inhabitants be given opportunities to
express their wishes freely. I overheard the Premier
giving orders to this effect to our organs in the field.

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3. Thus the Greater East Asia Conference of 1943 was convened with the aim of giving the various peoples of East Asia opportunities to freely express their opinions and, in general, in order to create a liberal atmosphere. Representatives of the various localities, having been duly invited, gladly participated in the Conference. No previous arrangements had been made as to addresses delivered by the representatives at the Conference. Persons like Mr. Laurel and Dr. Ba Mow delivered extemporaneous speeches, without relying on notes. Mr. Chandra Bose also voluntarily gave a fiery speech.

4. Later I had an opportunity to meet the representatives who participated in the Conference. All of them, Prince Wan Wai of Thailand, Dr. Ba Mow of Burma, Mr. Chandra Bose of the Provisional Government of India, and others expressed their pleasure to have attended the Conference.

5. In brief it is not true that when the Greater East Asia Conference was convened Japan compelled the attendance of the representatives of various countries. Further, their addresses were made of their own free will. This I can say with firm conviction.

On this 19th day of February, 1947
at Tokyo

/s/ YAMAMOTO, Kumeichi (Seal)

CASH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

(signed) YAMAMOTO, Kumeichi
(Seal)

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On this 19th day of February, 1947
At Tokyo

DEPONENT: YAMAMOTO, Kunichi (Seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and
seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place,
on the same date

WITNESS: (Signed) ANDO, Yoshinaga (Seal)

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the attached certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan
Date 25 February 1947

(Affidavit of YAMAMOTO, Kumeichi)

極東國際軍事裁判所
重米利加合衆國其他対荒不貞天其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 山本熊一

自分儀我國に於て行はるゝ法式に従ひ先づ宣誓を爲したる上左記の陳述をいたします

一、私は一九四三年十一月大東亞省が設立せられて以来大東亞次官となり一九四四年八月大使として泰國へ派遣せられる迄在職しました。従て一九四三年十一月の大東亞會議の事はよく存じて居ります。私は此會議の仕事と總括するやうな事をしました。

二、一九四一年大東亞戦争が始まつて以来、出先には本國の意思に合せざる節もなつてはありましたが、一九四二年夏以来各地により自田は空気を入れねばならぬとの考が東京政府の方針となりました。一九四三年私は東條首相と共に南方に旅行しました。此旅行中にも私は首相に各地に住民をして志を伸べしむる機會を与ふべき事を進言しました。首相は現地に於ても我國の機密に此旨を命じたりを聴きました。

三、以上の如く東亞諸民族をして自由に意見を陳べ一般に自由なる空気を入れるといふ考の下に一九四三年の大東亞會議が開かれました。其の會の招請に對しても各代表は喜んで参加して居ります。又會議に於ける演説も豫め訂合せ等は致して居りませぬ。ラッセル氏、バーモ博士の如きも原稿にたよらず自由の発意で演説して居ります。チャンドラ、ホース氏の如きも進んで熱辯を揮ひました。

四 其後未會の代表に會つた機會に泰國のツン
ワイ殿下、ブルマのバーモ博士、印度政府の
ナヤンドラボース氏等は總て此の會議への參會
を喜んで居りました。

五 要するに我方で大東亞會議の開催につき各國代表に
出席を強要した事は斷じてありません。又演説も
亦全く自由の意思に基くものでもあります。これ
は私は信念を以て申上る事を止めます。

一九四二年二月十九日 於東京

以上

山本熊一 (山本)

右は同日同所に於て自分の面前に於て署名捺印
せられたり。

安東義良 (安東)

宣 誓 言 書

良心ニ従ひ眞實ヲ陳へ何事ヲモ黙秘セス
又何事ヲモ附和セサルコトヲ誓言フ。

山本熊一 (山本)